

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03650 171522Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3650

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TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: OPIUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

REF: (A) STATE 130654; (B) NEW DELHI 6828; (C) GENEVA 3157

1. INCB HAS RECEIVED FROM GOI ITS OFFICIAL OPIUM PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR 1972. GOI HAS INDICATED THAT FIGURES FOR 1973 WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL SEPT. ACCORDINGLY, DITTERT HAS MADE REVISED INTERIM CALCULATION OF OPIUM SITUATION, UTILIZING INFO RECEIVED FROM GOI IN CASE OF 1972 AND THAT SUPPLIED BY MISOFF FROM REF B FOR 1973. BASED ON THESE FIGURES AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANNUAL MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MORPHINE (EXCLUDING USSR AND IRAN), DITTERT'S CURRENT CALCULATIONS SHOW STOCK (EXCEPT USSR AND IRAN) STANDING AT BEGINNING OF 1974 AT 782 METRIC TONS. DITTERT NOTES THAT THIS IS OPTIMISTIC EXTIMATE, I.E., DOES NOT REFLECT POSSIBLE DESIRE FOR MORE CODEINE BASED ON POPULATION INCREASES OR WISH OF MANUFACTURING COUNTRIES TO BUILD UP STOCKS. DITTERT'S LATEST CHART SHOWING HIS CURRENT CALCULATIONS HAS BEEN POUCHED TO S/NM - WELLMAN. DITTERT INDICATES THAT HE PLANS FURTHER TO REVIESE CALCULATIONS ON MUCH MORE REALISTIC BASIS WHEN ADDITIONAL DATA MOST OF WHICH HE HOPES RECEIVE BY SEPT IS AVAILABLE, NOTABLY, GOI'S OFFICIAL PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR 1973 AND PRODUCTION ESTIMATES FOR 1974 AS WELL AS DATA FOR FROM COUNTRIES SHOWING ACTUAL UTILIZATION (AS OPPOSED TO ESTIMATES) FOR 1972.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 03650 171522Z

2. FOLLOWING ARE DITTERT'S RESPONSES TO QUERIES POSED PARA

5 OF REF A. RE WHETHER THERE IS INCREASING CONCERN WORLDWIDE ABOUT ADEQUACY OF OPIUM SUPPLIES FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES, DITTERT NOTES HE HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVING THIS YEAR THE KIND OF CONCERNS ADDRESSED TO HIM IN PREVIOUS YEARS RE THIS SUBJECT. HE ALSO SAYS THAT INCB HAS NO SPECIFIC INFO WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT ANY COUNTRY IS CURRENTLY THINKING IN TERMS OF REQUESTING DISCUSSION OF OPIUM SHORTAGE QUESTION PRIOR TO CND SESSION NEXT YEAR. WHILE NOT EXCLUDING POSSIBILITY, DITTERT IS INCLINED BELIEVE THAT RISK SUCH REQUEST WILL BE FORMALLY MADE IS MINIMAL. HE CONFIRMED HAS NO INTENTION ITSELF TAKE INITIATIVE PROMOTE MEETING SUGGESTED BY MALLINCKRODT. HE NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT BOARD'S REPORTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS HAVE INCLUDED RECOMMENDATION THAT MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCING COUNTRIES SHOULD DISCUSS PROBLEM OF ADEQUACY OF OPIUM SUPPLY FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES AND ANTICIPATES THAT BOARD MIGHT WISH REITERATE SAME PROPOSAL IN ITS REPORT FOR 1973. ADDS THAT HE AND GRRENFIELD ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT USE OF CND AS FORUM FOR USEFUL DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER. THEY RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT CND HAS ALREADY DECIDED TAKE QUESTION UP AND WISH NOTE THAT PROSPECTS USEFUL DEBATE AND OUTCOME IN CND WOULD BE ENHANCED IF GOVTS ADEQUATELY PREPARE FOR DISCUSSION BY CONDUCTING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG THEMSELVES IN ADVANCE.

3. DITTERT SYAS HE CANNOT NOW PROVIDE VIEW ABOUT NEED FOR EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION BEYOND THAT PROJECTED FOR 1973/74 BECUASE HE DOES NOT YET HAVE ADQUATE DATA ON WHICH BASE SUCH VIEW. HE PARTICULARLY NEEDS DATA FROM INDIA WHICH GOI SYAS IT CANNOT PROVIDE PRIOR SEPT. ONCE THIS DATA RECEIVED HE WILL REVIEW SITUATION AND PROVIDE OPINION. ON QUERY RE BOARD'S ESTIMATE OF SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLIES FOR MEETING MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS OTHER MAIN COUNSUMING COUNTRIES, DITTERT NOTES IT IS DIFFICULT FOR HIM MAKE USEFUL COMMENT ON THIS. HE HAS MADE CALCULATIONS BASED ON GLOBAL REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING THOSE OF MAIN CONSUMING COUNTRIES AND ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION WILL DEPEND IMPORTANTLY ON POLICY OF INDIA RE ALLOCATION AVAILABLE SUPPLIES AS AMONG REQUESTING COUNTRIES. HE OBSERVES THAT TO DATE INDIA HAS TENDED TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF LARGER COUNTRIES AND COMPLAINTS RE INABILITY OBTAIN OPIUM HAVE COME FROM SMALLER COUNTRIES
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 03650 171522Z

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